



Kyrgyz Republic, US citizens attend clinic ceremony

Leadership from the Transit Center at Manas lended their support Jan. 12, as the Clinic of Lesnoye Village was dedicated and ownership of the facility was transferred to the Sokuluk Rayon Family Medicine Center.

"On behalf of the villages, district and administration, I would like to express my great thanks to these people and agencies for what they've done for us," said Kabylbek Beishembaev, head of Atbashinsky Ayil Okrug.

Celebrating the dedication were Larry Memmott, United States Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission; Col. James Jacobson, Transit Center director; administrative members from

Sokuluk Rayon Administration; and other Kyrgyz Republic government officials.

The clinic is a \$47,000 project that will serve to improve access to primary healthcare services for 900 people living in Lesnoye village.

"We are pleased to support the people of Lesnoye village and the Ministry of Health with this important facility for providing access to health services for all members of this village and surrounding community," Jacobson said.

Memmott announced his excitement over the partnership of the local people.

"I am so glad to be here and share

the joyfulness of this event," he said. "This event has become possible thanks to very good friendships and friendly relations between the American and Kyrgyz people."

"It is my distinct honor to share this important event with you which signifies the United States of America's commitment to a lasting partnership with the people of Kyrgyzstan," said Jacobson. "As your neighbor, it remains our goal to advance our partnership with you."

"I look forward to a continued cooperation between the Transit Center and the people of Manas and Lesnoye villages," Jacobson added.

“Operation Warm and Dry”



Airmen from the Transit Center at Manas and Peace Corps volunteers sort girls coats according to size during an Operation Warm and Dry distribution held at Lenin School #4 in Balykchy, Kyrgyzstan, Jan. 15, 2012. With two simultaneous distributions, more than 1,000 coats and 200 blankets were given to Kyrgyz Republic citizens in need in Balykchy, becoming the largest distribution event since the program's creation in 2009.



(Above) A member from the Transit Center at Manas helps a Kyrgyz boy try on a winter jacket during an Operation Warm and Dry distribution Jan. 15, 2012.

(Left) Pamela Spratlen, U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, helps Alina, an 8-year-old student from Balykchy, Kyrgyzstan, try on a new coat at an Operation Warm and Dry distribution Jan. 15, 2012.



Volunteers unload blankets and jackets Dec. 27, 2011, at one of the five distribution sites during an Operation Warm and Dry trip in Kyrgyzstan. The Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyz Republic and U.S. Embassy sponsor Operation Warm and Dry.



Col. James Jacobson, Transit Center director, stands with children from Balykchy, Kyrgyzstan, Jan. 15, 2012, before an Operation Warm and Dry distribution. The event marked the Warm and Dry program's largest distribution of coats and blankets since its creation in 2009. The Transit Center handed out more than 1,000 coats and 200 blankets in Balykchy.



MABOS keeps hearts beating

Giving back to the community is nothing new for the Manas Area Benefit Outreach Society.

The group showed its generosity Jan. 17 by donating more than \$5,000 worth of centrifuges to the National Cardiology and Therapy Center in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The machines will be used to potentially triple the amount of heart surgeries conducted in the hospital by providing proper and accurate results for blood tests.

"They really needed these machines," said Master Sgt. Leenette Joseph, 376th Air Expeditionary Wing equal opportunity advisor.

Zuhra Kachkinbekova, mother of a 4-year old boy, shared her gratitude with the volunteers.

"You have made our

children happy and cheered them up," she said.

MABOS has been assisting the heart ward since 2003 and has paid for 172 surgeries. Aside from the centrifuges, the humanitarian assistance group donated six refrigerators totaling \$5,290 to allow the clinic to store more blood for patients.

James Carney, who lives in Bishkek, is a regular contributor to the National Cardiology and Therapy Center who first got involved with the heart ward when a friend informed him of a family who needed help paying for their child's surgery.

"I was working as a contractor here in 2001 when I was first notified of families who needed help paying for surgeries. I paid for two surgeries out of pocket," Carney said. "As the

requests became more frequent, I took them to the MABOS president at the time and gave them information about the heart ward."

Carney has maintained good relations with the staff at the National Cardiology and Therapy Center and notifies MABOS whenever there is a project to be done.

"I'm always communicating with the staff, asking what they need and how it can improve the lives of the children and their families," Carney said. "MABOS has been a big help with contributing."

During the visit to the heart ward, MABOS members also took time to play with the children there.

Master Sgt. Joe Cuthbertson, 376th Expeditionary Mission Support Group first sergeant, had a

unique experience during his visit.

"[I felt] humbled [when I saw the kids enjoying themselves]," Cuthbertson said. "These kids are going through a lot worse than we've ever gone through and they're still finding time to have fun and play and not think of their problems."

Dr. Shabrailev is the surgeon who has performed all 172 surgeries on the children throughout the years. He and his technicians agreed to perform the surgeries for free that MABOS helped sponsor.

Almagal Sheralieva, doctor of transfusions, will be the main technician operating the machines.

"We're very grateful to you for providing these modern devices to us; they are very useful," she said.



Kyrgyz students share New Year celebration

With music loud and the lights down low, the crowd was ready to go. This isn't a night club, it's the Jany Pahkta school in Kyrgyzstan.

A group of military members from the Transit Center at Manas traveled to Jany Pahkta to donate school supplies and participate in a Kyrgyz New Year celebration Dec. 26.

The students performed a series of dance shows while wearing colorful costumes and encouraging the group to join in.

"The children wanted to show what their fantasies and wishes were about," said Mairam Tazboolatouna, Jany Pahkta School principal. "They created the costumes themselves; it was a lot like a masquerade."

Lt. Col. Richard Roberts, 376th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron commander, who is from Jenison, Mo., enjoyed the hospitality of the children.

"I felt very welcomed when they invited us to join their celebration," he said. "The performance the kids did was great. It showcased some of their local culture, giving us the opportunity to learn and participate."

The EFSS squadron supports Jany Pakhta on a regular basis.

"We were able to get some information they needed -- some mathematics and physics books to help their school program," Roberts said.

Tazboolatouna was grateful for the gifts.

"We're happy you came, and we appreciate the books," she said. "We invited you to participate so you can relax, because you are always doing so much for us."



Kyrgyz students perform a dance as part of a New Year celebration at the Jany Pahkta School in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Dec. 26, 2011.

Transit Center at Manas Economic Impact as of Jan. 31, 2012

Direct Expenditures	FY09 Actual	FY10 Actual	FY11 Actual	FY12 YTD
Payments to Kyrgyz Govt - Dip Note	\$26,620,000	\$60,000,000	\$60,000,000	\$30,000,000
Payments to Manas International Airport	\$22,999,039			
Lease, Passes, and Utilities		\$4,029,091	\$7,817,140	\$2,147,980
Aircraft Landing, Parking, Service Fees		\$21,157,571	\$19,460,590	\$5,269,075
Contributions to Airport Improvements	\$30,600,000	\$0	\$0	\$19,004,021
Contributions to Kyrgyz Aeronavigation	\$0	\$0	\$30,000,000	\$0
Contract Payments (Furniture, Sports Equipment, Parts, Supplies, Buildings, Renovations, Road Repairs, Grounds Maintenance, Refuse, Custodial, Vehicle Leases)	\$24,601,908	\$42,790,517	\$30,916,871	\$9,020,736
Leases (non-MIA)	\$81,562	\$66,596	\$120,698	\$0
Programmatic Humanitarian Assistance	\$1,700,000	\$2,273,488	\$823,634	\$587,902
Subtotal Direct Expenditures	\$106,602,509	\$130,317,263	\$149,138,933	\$66,029,714
Indirect Expenditures				
Estimated U.S. military local spending	\$1,037,530	\$1,161,743	\$1,427,396	\$570,001
Subtotal Indirect Expenditures	\$1,037,530	\$1,161,743	\$1,427,396	\$570,001
Total Economic Impact	\$107,640,039	\$131,479,006	\$150,566,329	\$66,599,716
Aviation Fuel Payments to Gazpromneft-Aero-Kyrgyzstan				\$22,054,201

Kyrgyz bazaar sales second highest in seven years

Kyrgyz vendors benefited from Transit Center at Manas shoppers two years in a row with record high sales during the November through January holiday season.

"Pete's Place" at the Transit Center is known primarily as a place to relax and connect with friends or family via Wi-Fi, but to the Kyrgyz people it's a place of business.

In 2010, holiday sales were more than \$27,000 and the 2011 holiday rush brought in about \$26,800.

Pete's Place manager Jonathan Petry said, "The amount of money that some of the vendors are making is quite substantial. I think for some of them this might be their only job because they

are doing so well."

Since the bazaar began in 2005, the number of vendors has doubled. Currently, the bazaar is held every Saturday and hosts approximately 25 to 30 local vendors.

"You can tell when you talk to them that they're very grateful for the opportunity to make the extra money," Petry said.

For nearly seven years, the bazaar has been a venue for local entrepreneurs to not only make money but share their Kyrgyz culture.

Anastasiia Borisova and her sister, brother and mother have been vendors since the beginning.

"This is one of the main incomes for five of our fami-



lies," Borisova said. "Our products that we make are not only souvenirs from Kyrgyzstan, they are also part of our culture. I'm happy that we are here to offer our products."

The vendors are selected by the 376th Expeditionary Force Support Squadron and must offer products that are not sold by other vendors here.